

JORDAN TIMES

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Carlos to visit Egypt in March

CAIRO, Jan. 17 (AFP). — King Juan Carlos of Spain will visit Egypt from Mar. 16-19, it was announced here yesterday. Spanish Premier Adolfo Suarez will go to Cairo on Jan. 31 to arrange the visit, the announcement said. In Madrid official sources said that Senor Suarez will also visit Iraq and Syria. The five-day tour is part of a Spanish diplomatic offensive towards the Arab World. Foreign Minister Marcelino Oreja visited Tunisia last week and signed an agreement on airspace cooperation.

Assassination scare hits Brussels

BRUSSELS, Jan. 17 (AFP). — A Zairese security officer with a sub-machinegun under his raincoat today sparked off a double assassination scare as King Baudouin met visiting President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire. The Zairese officer was overpowered by Belgian police who spotted the weapon, and he was only released three hours later after questioning and an exchange of messages between the Foreign Ministry and the Zaire embassy here. The embassy later claimed in a statement a lack of coordination between Belgian and Zairese security officials at Brussels airport.

Volume 2, Number 363

PEC officials stress the organization's durability

NA, Jan. 17 (R). — The Organization of Petroleum-Exporting Countries (OPEC) is in no danger of falling apart, its new Secretary-General, Ali Mohammad Jaldah, said today.

Jaldah told an airport press conference on arrival here to take a two-year term of duty. "I don't have taken the job (of Secretary-General) if I thought OPEC's existence was in trouble," he said.

He said he did not think that the emergence of a two-tier price system at last month's OPEC conference of oil ministers was an issue that would break up the organization.

Kuwait, Sheikh Abdul Aziz Khalifa Al Thani, who presided over last month's OPEC meeting in Qatar, said today OPEC is holding together well despite differences within it.

Arab leaders to hold summit in Cairo next March

CAIRO, Jan. 17 (R). — Arab heads of state will attend a summit conference here in March to map out a strategy to solve the Middle East crisis, Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Chatti announced yesterday.

Chatti said the summit would be held while the Afro-Arab summit conference is meeting here in March.

Arab leaders will also discuss the creation of a Palestinian state on the West Bank of the Jordan and the Gaza Strip, Chatti said.

Confrontation states get \$2 billion

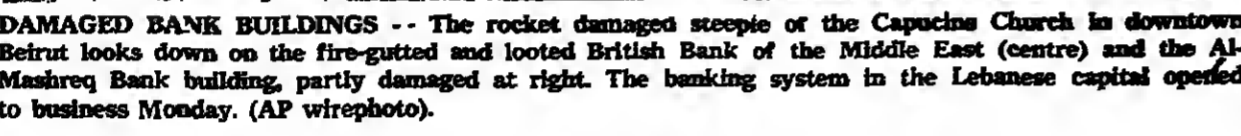
WAIT, Jan. 17 (AFP). — The Gulf states will contribute \$2,058 million over the next two years to the confrontation states bordering Israel, it was reported here yesterday. The Dailly Al Anba' quoted a source in an Arab Foreign Ministry as saying the break-down of contributions would be: Saudi Arabia and Kuwait \$400 million each per year. United Arab Emirates \$300 million, Qatar \$150 million, Bahrain \$4 million. Oman and the Sultanate of Oman pledged to contribute \$100 million and \$15 million respectively but had not yet done so, a report said.

Sorensen withdraws candidacy for CIA post in face of strong Senate opposition

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17 (AFP). — Theodore Sorensen, the man President-elect Jimmy Carter picked to head the Central Intelligence Agency, today withdrew his candidacy in the face of strong opposition from the U.S. Senate.

Mr. Sorensen announced he was stepping down after a first session here this morning of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Activities which had to prove the nomination.

In a long statement, the 48-year-old former aide to President John Kennedy systematically denied "all the scurrilous and ungrounded personal attacks which have been anonymously circulated about me."



DAMAGED BANK BUILDINGS -- The rocket damaged facade of the Capucins Church in downtown Beirut looks down on the fire-gutted and looted British Bank of the Middle East (centre) and the Al-Mashreq Bank building, partly damaged at right. The banking system in the Lebanese capital opened to business Monday. (AP wirephoto).

Return of big U.S. banks encourages confidence Lebanon's banks reopen

BEIRUT, Jan. 17 (R). — Lebanon's banks officially reopened today, a step considered essential for the revival of the country's war-shattered economy.

But bankers here were reluctant to forecast whether the formal reopening of foreign and Lebanese banks here was likely to signal Lebanon's return to its pre-war role as the financial heart of the Middle East.

Mr. Joseph Geagea, Chairman of the Bankers' Association, told Reuters today: "Operations are running smoothly but slowly because business activity is not yet back to its former level."

Mr. Geagea declined to speculate on the future of Beirut as a Middle East banking centre. But his deputy, Dr. No'man Al Azhari, said in a recent newspaper interview that he expected bank deposits in Lebanese pounds to rise from about seven billion to 10 billion by the end of the year.

Dr. Azhari added he also expected foreign currency deposits to return slowly, provided the present ceasefire held and the political situation here continued to be stable.

Observers said that the return of such major foreign banks as the Citibank of New York, the First National City Bank of Chicago and Chase Manhattan of New York underlined growing foreign confidence that there will be no fresh outbreak of strife between the rival factions.

Many United States banks closed their branches here and moved their Middle East headquarters to London, Paris, Cairo, Athens and Bahrain as the war intensified. None of these capital offered the combined advantages of Beirut -- excellent communications, trained personnel and proximity to Middle East clients.

Today, the scene in Riad Solh Street -- once the Middle East's major banking street -- underlined that Lebanon is likely to face an uphill struggle in trying to regain its former position of pre-eminence, observers said.

Members of Lebanon's "Squad 16" riot police, wearing red berets and carrying American-made M-16 assault rifles were strolling up and down Riad Solh Street. Hardly any traffic moved along what used to be a solid day-time traffic jam before the war broke out of April 13, 1975.

Although Riad Solh Street is situated in the commercial district -- most of which was reduced to rubble by heavy-calibre ar-

Arab prisoners' hunger strike enters 3rd month

TEL AVIV, Jan. 17 (R). — Some 400 Arab guerrillas today began the third month of a hunger strike to demand prisoner-of-war status and in protest at conditions in Israel's Ashkelon prison to the south of here.

The prisoners, from the Gaza Strip and the occupied West Bank, are refusing solid food and are being fed liquids when they faint from hunger, prison authorities say.

Israeli Arab lawyer Ali Rafah told Reuters the prisoners complained that Ashkelon jail was built to house only half the 450 inmates now held there.

He said there were 20 inmates to a cell.

tillery shells -- its major buildings escaped without structural damage. But bullet-riddled windows testified to the intensity of the fighting there.

A British banker formerly based in Beirut told Reuters last month that banks here had lost at least \$500 million through looting of vaults and safe deposit boxes. One British bank alone was estimated to have lost around \$100 million.

The decision to reopen the banks followed assurances by the government-owned Central Bank to provide the liquidity necessary to conduct normal operations.

King Hussein said: "Even though the parliamentary institution

Giscard: French policy will not be dictated by the news media

PARIS, Jan. 17 (AFP). — President Valery Giscard d'Estaing reacted sharply today to criticism of a French court's decision to release alleged Palestinian terrorist Abu Dawud, warning friends of France to refrain from preaching.

Addressing a televised news conference, Mr. Giscard d'Estaing said: "France, its people and its laws need lessons from no one. I invite those who want to be France's friends to refrain from preaching to us."

The president stressed that French foreign policy "is not made and will not be made in the editorial offices of some of the international news media. French policy is the business of the president, the government and the parliament."

Questioned at length on the Abu Dawud affair, Mr. Giscard d'Estaing said that on Monday, Jan. 10, a top aide to the French foreign minister had asked the West German charge d'affaires in Paris to ask his government for instructions on the extradition of the Palestinian leader.

But the Foreign Ministry aide was never contacted by the West Germans, Mr. Giscard d'Estaing said, and the French court "had no formal application concerning an extradition demand from our partners."

He contended that the anti-French "campaign" as a result of the affair resulted from something other than just the court's decision to free Abu Dawud. "Some countries", he observed, "did not accept France's independent policy as implemented by us."

Addressing the families of the 11 Israeli athletes killed in "the

AMMAN, (Agencies) — Parliamentarians representing more than half the population of the Arab World met here Monday to discuss the Middle East situation and means to strengthen inter-Arab parliamentary cooperation.

The 5th session of the Arab Parliamentary Union was opened by His Majesty King Hussein.

The three-day meeting which is being chaired by Speaker of the Upper House Bahjat Talhouni brings together delegations from Egypt, Syria, Sudan, Tunisia, Lebanon, North and South Yemen, Mauritania and the Palestine National Council -- the Palestinian parliament-in-exile -- in addition to the host country.

Addressing the conferees, the King said that the Arab Parliamentary Union was a developing Arab institution whose creation and continued development would herald the best of results to Arab national development.

The King said Arab solidarity can only mature if accompanied by the development of the unity of inter-Arab institutions, particularly parliamentary ones.

Democratic institutions are the guarantor of our national unity and destiny against extremism of any kind, while they prevent the isolation and stagnation of official institutions, the King said.

King Hussein emphasised that Jordan deeply believed in the values of democracy and continual interaction between the government and the citizens.

King Hussein said: "Even though the parliamentary institution

in Jordan has been passing exceptional circumstances beyond our control over the past two years, we are determined to return at the shortest practical time to full parliamentary life."

The Vice President of the Egyptian People's Council Mr. Abdul Mun'em Al Sawi then read a message addressed to the conferees by President Anwar Sadat who hailed King Hussein and the people of Jordan.

The Egyptian president said in his message that the attention of the Arab world is focused on the

meeting with the hope of seeing all Arab lands liberated and Palestinian sovereignty restored over Palestine.

Mr. Talhouni welcomed the conferees who converged on Amman with faith in the unity of objectives and destiny for the Arab nation.

The meeting will review the union's activities in 1976 and its future moves on the Arab, African and international levels.

Other topics to be discussed include the budget and venue and date of the next meeting.

Waldheim: Geneva talks could resume this spring

NEW YORK, Jan. 17 (Agencies). — United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim was quoted today as saying a serious effort was now needed to reconvene the Geneva Middle East Peace Conference in order to ward off the danger of a new war.

He cautiously forecast that the Geneva talks could be resumed this spring.

Dr. Waldheim told a press conference in New York that he would start a new round of consultations among countries involved, and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), at the beginning of February.

His first call will be at Cairo where he will arrive on Feb. 2. During the following two weeks he will visit Syria, Jordan, Israel and Lebanon.

Although Dr. Waldheim confirmed he will meet PLO leader Yasser Arafat during this Middle East tour he did not say where the meeting could take place.

He has been encouraged to undertake the new round of consul-

tations, the secretary general said, by both co-chairman of the Geneva conference -- the United States and the Soviet Union. He had held talks with outgoing U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, his successor Cyrus Vance and future U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Andrew Young, before reaching his decision, Dr. Waldheim said.

The U.N. secretary general said he would be keeping the Soviet Union and the U.S. informed of the way his consultations went. He was prepared to undertake a shuttle between Middle East capitals or to go back to the Middle East on a second trip after his February tour, if it became necessary.

Dr. Waldheim added that he is due to report back to the Security Council by March 1 at the latest.

Dr. Waldheim said in an interview with the Belgrade newspaper Politika in New York that the step-by-step approach to reach a settlement had failed and a "global solution" was now necessary.

"I am cautiously optimistic, as far as the reconvening of the Geneva conference is concerned. Everything turns around that..."

"It is high time to make a serious effort to restart the process of negotiations, if we do not want to risk a new war. This has to be avoided at all costs," he said.

"The question of the PLO's participation is one of the key ones which have to be solved. In my talks I will try to find an agreement about the procedure so that we can reconvene the conference with the full agreement of all interested parties," Dr. Waldheim added.

The conference met briefly in December 1973, with the United States and the Soviet Union as co-chairmen. Egypt, Jordan and Israel attended it, but the PLO was not invited and the United States and Israel refuse to deal with it.

Tito's visit
The interview was published on the eve of a visit by Yugoslav President Tito to Libya and Egypt for talks with their leaders expected to centre on the prospects for restarting the conference.

FOREIGN PRESS CHAIRMAN PROTESTS ISRAELI CENSORSHIP

TEL AVIV, Jan. 17 (AFP). — Outgoing Foreign Press Association Chairman Steve Delaney has accused Israeli military authorities of preventing foreign correspondents from covering events on the West Bank for fear their reports might damage Israel's image abroad.

The Israeli military command was more interested in using the foreign press corps as an instrument than as a means of giving the real news, he told a correspondents' meeting last night.

"For the Israeli army we are very well placed to serve the military propaganda," he said. Mr. Delaney stressed that his association was not opposed to military censorship but only to censorship based on political reasons.

Regarding the Abu Dawud affair, he said that while the Palestinian leader was alleged to be responsible for the Munich operation, "there are those who carried out the massacre, three of whom were later arrested. Where are they?" he asked.

(On Oct. 29, 1972, the three Arabs detained following the Sept. 5 Munich attack were released and flown to Tripoli after two Arabs hijacked a West German airliner and threatened to blow it up.)

The French leader announced that he expected to hold about two news conferences a year. Today's conference put heavy emphasis on the French economy, with Mr. Giscard d'Estaing setting economic recovery as his government's number-one goal.

Mr. Khalaf, discussing the proposed broadening of the (PNC) to include delegates from Israeli-occupied territories said the decision aimed at "ensuring a greater representativity for the Palestinian people's organisations."

Mr. Khalaf denied Kuwait press reports that quoted Mr. Arafat as saying he would resign if Arab pressures on him continued.

Fateh's No. 2 man says: Palestinian commandos will form PNC majority

CAIRO, Jan. 17 (AFP). — Battlefield men (commandos) will form the majority inside the new Palestinian National Council (PNC) (parliament) a Palestinian leader was today quoted here as saying.

Mr. Salah Khalaf, reputed "right-hand man" of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chief Yasser Arafat, made the statement to a group of Palestinian students in Cairo, the "Voice of Palestine" radio reported.

Mr. Khalaf, discussing the proposed broadening of the (PNC) to include delegates from Israeli-occupied territories said the decision aimed at "ensuring a greater representativity for the Palestinian people's organisations."

Mr. Khalaf denied Kuwait press reports that quoted Mr. Arafat as saying he would resign if Arab pressures on him continued.

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Fantastic triangle

The Israeli Chief-of-Staff, Lt.-Gen. Mordechai Gur, spoke openly in an interview last week about how the billions of dollars of aid that the U.S. has given Israel recently have been more than compensated for by the growing influence the U.S. now enjoys throughout the Arab World. His thoughts were reported and greeted in a manner we think is a little bit too perfunctory for comfort, or, indeed, for a full understanding of the strange and complex ties among the U.S., Israel and the Arabs.

Lt.-Gen. Gur's basic point was that Israeli military strength, and military successes such as crossing the Suez Canal in the 1973 October War, provided the United States with an opportunity to "strengthen its overall position in the Arab World." On the mechanical level of policy execution, this is probably very close to the truth. But on the higher level of whether there are clear and noble goals to such short-term policies, there is an element of doubt that grows stronger every day.

Over the past five years or so, the Americans have consistently pushed two theses about the Middle East: That Israel has a right to exist in secure and recognised borders, and that, to bring this about, the United States enjoys the trust of both the Arabs and the Israelis and is thus in a unique position to act as a mediator for peace.

During 1976, with the Lebanese war and the American presidential election, one could not really expect any movement from Washington on the question of an Arab-Israeli peace. But now the picture has changed and will do so some more after the Israeli elections in May. Thus the time is approaching when the Americans will be asked whether they plan to do anything with the special friendship and trust they have cultivated among both the Arabs or the Israelis, and the political leadership in Washington will be handed the political bill for the unique position that it has bought itself in the Middle East.

Lt.-Gen. Gur's attitude -- an archetypal Israeli view -- is that it is sufficient for the Americans just to have achieved so much influence in the Arab World, and it would be a good policy from now on if this influence were maintained at its elevated peak by pouring more money and arms into Israel.

The American viewpoint is a little different, and generally looks to the day when American influence will be put to the service of fostering a peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute. The United States has spent the past few years cultivating this singular role for itself in this region in anticipation of logically moving ahead to the next stage of the peace-making process. The Israelis see the cultivation as the one and only goal, whose perpetual attainment can be sustained by the flow of more American aid to Israel.

This whole fantastic process is built upon Arab patience, and a lack of alternatives to bringing Israel to its senses except by the influence of the United States. On both scores, time is running short; and in the second case, the Arabs are slowly realising that they may be able to bring Israel to its senses through bringing Israel's friends to their senses, by the application of both positive and negative, economic and political pressures.

One of the elements that will soon start to wear thin is the extent of true American influence in the Arab World. The best way to keep influence and trust and friendship is to use these for good ends. The Americans probably have this in mind, and will soon have a chance to play their cards.

The Israelis, on the other hand, only seem to be interested in this process insofar as it releases more American guns and money for their troubled state. The Arabs seem to be content with letting the whole show go on for a while longer to see how it ends. There are irreconcilable interests here, and the Americans will have to start facing up to them and sorting them out soon. When they do, they can thank Lt. Gen. Gur for the advance warning.



"All packed, but where's he going?"

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

Jordanian newspapers Monday welcomed the meeting of the Arab Parliamentary Federation Council, which His Majesty King Hussein opened in Amman Monday.

Al Ra'i says the mere existence of the Arab Parliamentary Federation deserves consideration and appreciation. In it, "we honour democracy as a value, rather than as practice. It indicates Arab insistence on the meaning and value of democracy as a form of civilised behaviour which should prevail all over our Arab World and as a victory over backwardness..."

Al Dustour describes the meeting of Arab parliamentarians as a historic opportunity for study, coordination and action in the interest of the vital Arab cause through the federation's activities in the local, Arab and international fields.

Al Dustour says present Arab détente gives the Arab Parliamentary Federation greater impetus to achieve more gains for the great Arab cause, especially as the federation will discuss in its present session the question of Afro-Arab parliamentary cooperation and the federation's participation in the International Parliamentary Union conference to be held in Australia and later in Bulgaria.

Al Sha'b, however, comments on the announcement of Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Al Shatti, who presided over the Arab foreign ministers' meeting which ended in Cairo Sunday, that an Arab summit will take place in the Egyptian capital during the Afro-Arab summit on March 7.

The aim of the Arab summit, according to Mr. Shatti, is to lay out a "unified Arab strategy dealing with the crisis over Israeli occupation in the coming stage." Al Sha'b says the Arab foreign ministers have done well in agreeing to convene the conference for the sole purpose of working out a unified strategy for meeting the developments and contingencies of the future.

"A concerted Arab effort is bound to enrich the general Arab stand with strength and effect-

ness -- locally and internationally -- and to impose respect for the Arab will. In this lies the principal condition of making the requested solution to the Middle East crisis an Arab peace, rather than peace dictated by the enemy and the ambitions of international interests," Al Sha'b concludes.

Al Baath of Damascus hits out at what it calls "Israeli manoeuvring tactics to impede and abort the Arab peace initiative in the Middle East. The paper says Israel will never abandon its aggressive and expansionist policies aimed at perpetuating the occupation and closing its eyes to the calls for peace with justice advanced by the world community.

Al Baath says the president's statement reflects a complete understanding of Israeli intentions. "For the first time Syria has pla-

ced Israel in an actual test of intention before the eyes of the world, when it will be compelled to show its real cards without any manoeuvres or prevarications, the paper says.

Al Ahram of Cairo commends the policy of Arab détente which was built up before and after the October 1973 war and up to the present day. It singles out the latest coordination steps which have been taking place between Egypt on the one side, and Syria, Jordan and Sudan on the other.

The paper says the most important aspect of the growing rapprochement is the fact that the Arabs have succeeded in acquiring a sound outlook concerning their domestic and external affairs, as well as their mutual relations.

AMMAN (JNA). — A Belgian trade delegation would visit Jordan on Jan. 24 for talks with danian officials on the purchase of large amounts of Jordanian phosphates, sources of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry announced Sunday.

Jordanian-Syria airline set up

DAMASCUS (JNA). — The Jordanian and Syrian sides by their respective presidential national air carriers agreed Sunday to set up a Joint Jordanian-Syrian Airline to operate long routes including the new route directly linking both man and Damascus with New York.

The two sides agreed on establishing this joint company, a joint capital and a joint board of directors and agreed to open joint offices in the United States and Canada.

Abu Odeh says:

PLO must have its say at Geneva Mideast conference

AMMAN. — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) must have its say at the Geneva conference on the Middle East and decide there on its present and future identity, since it is acting as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, the Minister of Information, Mr. Adnan Abu Odeh said in an interview with the Kuwaiti weekly magazine, Al Majalis which published the interview in its latest issue.

Mr. Abu Odeh was being interviewed on the present Arab situation and other matters of equal importance to the Arab World.

If any settlement is to be considered the central issue of the problem must not be avoided -- and that is the national rights of the Palestinian people. Mr. Abu Odeh said.

The Rabat Conference frankly and openly announced that the Palestinian people have the right to decide their future through the PLO, to choose their own ruling

system and to decide upon the sort of relationships they want to establish with the other Arab states. Jordan, on its part, will continue its full support to its brothers in the West Bank fulfilling its duty in enabling them to resist the Israeli occupation.

In an answer to another question concerning the present relations between Jordan and Syria Mr. Abu Odeh explained that coordination, cooperation, and integration in the different fields have been achieved to an extent which promises more positive and fruitful ties.

Jordan and Syria are presently following steps that will lead them, and hopefully the Arab World, to that original state which existed before the imperialistic powers shredded the region into the present multi-state Arab World.

Arabs should coordinate their efforts, solidify their stand to reach this goal, he added.



Mr. Adnan Abu Odeh, Minister of Information.

Belgian trade delegation to arrive here

What's Going On

A film entitled "Das Messer im Ruecken."

8:00 p.m., at the Goethe Institute, Jabal Amman.

Exchange Rates

Following are the official exchange rates in effect at the start of today's business day, as set by the Central Bank of Jordan.

The first column is how much you would receive in Jordanian fils for selling a unit of the foreign currency, while the second column denotes how much it would cost you to buy a unit of the foreign currency:

U.S. dollar	331.0	334.0
U.K. sterling	570.0	576.0
Swiss franc	133.6	134.0
German mark	138.9	139.3
French franc	66.8	67.1
Italian lira		
(for every 100)	38.0	38.2
Syrian pound	82.6	82.4
Lebanese pound	112.1	113.4
Saudi riyal	94.6	95.0
Iraqi dinar	938.0	945.0
Kuwaiti dinar	1152.0	1160.0
UAE dirham	83.0	83.6
Libyan dinar	710.0	720.0
Egyptian pound	470.0	480.0

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هكذا صنعنا القليل

Carter invites nation to attend his inauguration

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17 (AFP) -- Thursday Mr. Jimmy Carter will inaugurate his administration here in much the same way as all other presidents have done.

Mr. Thomas Jefferson took the oath of office on the second term in March 1801. Mr. Jefferson, the nation's first executive, was trailed by a trumpet-bling and waving crowd.

Each president-elect has taken the oath on the White House steps. Mr. Nixon's second inauguration in 1973 cost some \$4 million, some opponents of big government spending.

Mr. Jimmy Carter will put a lid on big government spending -- even though he has an open invitation to the White House to come and watch the ceremonies.

White House ceremonies, which besides swearing-in, will include an extended vacation, dividing his time between the capital's best-known landmarks.

Mr. Carter will watch the parade, which includes delegations from all 50 states, from stands built for the occasion along the entire length of the White House lawn.

Surrounded by his family Vice President-elect Walter Mondale, justices of the Supreme Court and Congressional leaders, Mr. Carter himself will be protected by a thick shield of bullet-proof glass.

Also sitting close to the new president will be Mr. Gerald Ford, in keeping with the long-standing tradition that the departing president join in the inauguration of his successor.

Only three presidents have refused this good-will gesture: Mr. John Adams in 1801, his son Mr. John Quincy Adams in 1829 and Mr. Andrew Johnson in 1869.

Later that afternoon, Mr. Ford the only non-elected president in U.S. history and the first to be denied office in a re-election bid since Mr. Herbert Hoover in 1932, will leave for an extended vacation, dividing his time between

golf in Palm Springs, California and skiing in Vail, Colorado.

By that time, Mr. Jimmy Carter will have been the nation's 39th president for several hours.

A little before midday, on a podium in front of the Capitol building -- the seat of Congress -- he will be sworn into office by Supreme Court Chief Justice Warren Burger.

"I do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the office of the president of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States," the president will intone after the chief justice.

The oath, spelled out in Article Two, Section One of the Constitution, has been pronounced that way by 37 presidents before Mr. Carter.

Only one -- Mr. Franklin Pierce in 1853 -- took advantage of his constitutional right to "affirm" the oath rather than solemnly "swear" it.

After the swearing-in, the new president will deliver an inauguration speech outlining broadly his major policy objectives.

The speech can be pithy -- Gen. George Washington uttered only 35 words at the start of his second term -- or long: Mr. William Henry Harrison went on for more than an hour-and-a-half in 1841.

That long-winded oration turned out to be the first and last of Mr. Harrison's presidential career.

He caught cold on the day of the inauguration, came down with pneumonia and died on April 4, 1841, exactly one month after taking office.

Indeed, cold has been one of the most striking features of inauguration days.

Until 1932, the president-elect took office on March 4th, a date on which blizzards were frequent, especially in the 19th century.

Since then, the red-letter date has been Jan. 20th, which hardly changed the story weather-wise.

The winter of 1969 was mild, but this year's has been one of the coldest of the century. Since the beginning of January, temperatures here have seldom risen above freezing, making it even colder than in 1873.

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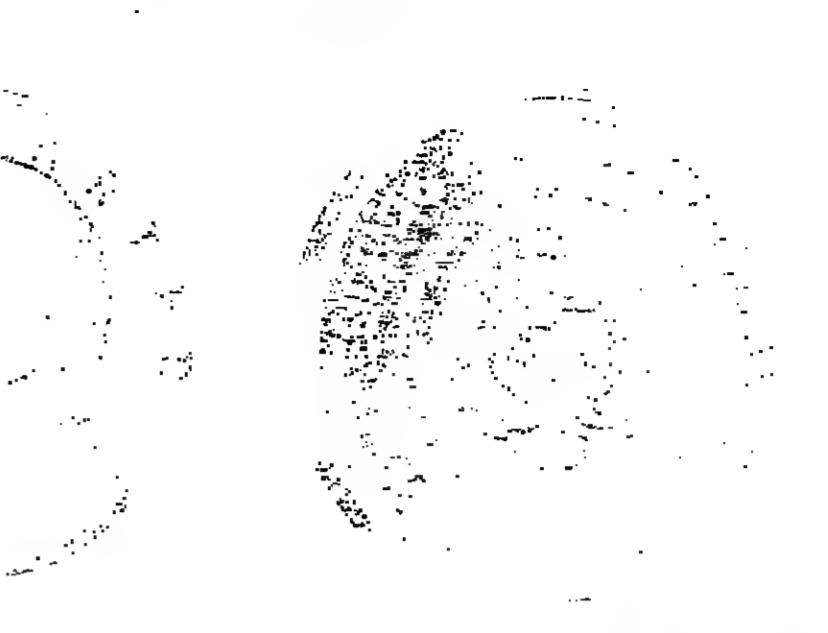
He caught cold on the day of the inauguration, came down with pneumonia and died on April 4, 1841, exactly one month after taking office.

Indeed, cold has been one of the most striking features of inauguration days.

Until 1932, the president-elect took office on March 4th, a date on which blizzards were frequent, especially in the 19th century.

Since then, the red-letter date has been Jan. 20th, which hardly changed the story weather-wise.

The winter of 1969 was mild, but this year's has been one of the coldest of the century. Since the beginning of January, temperatures here have seldom risen above freezing, making it even colder than in 1873.



CARTER'S INAUGURAL MEDAL -- The U.S. Franklin Mint Corp., released last week these drawings of the official inaugural medal of President-elect Jimmy Carter. Mr. Carter's portrait was sculpted by Mr. Julian Harris of Atlanta, Georgia. Sale of this official commemorative medal, available in bronze, silver or gold, will defray costs of the celebrations of inauguration day, Thursday, Jan. 20. (AP wirephoto).

That was the year Mr. Ulysses S. Grant began his second term in a snow-driven cold that forced dancers to keep on their coats while refreshments froze.

For the inauguration has traditionally been marked by gala balls -- five of them, in fact, on the evening of Jan. 20.

It is a tradition that goes back to Gen. George Washington's stewardship, when France and Spain -- the only nations with diplomatic ties to the then fledgling union of 13 states -- threw celebrations to mark the swearing-in.

The original balls were held one week after the oath-taking. They have been moved up to inauguration day, but have not been held in the White House since the Andrew Jackson debacle in 1829.

Mr. Jackson, the seventh president and strident Populist, threw the doors of the executive mansion wide open and invited anyone who wanted to toast his inauguration.

Nearly 20,000 well-wishers showed up, running roughshod over the mansion, making souvenirs of just about anything not bolted down and very nearly reducing the stately furnishings to rubble.

But if drinking and dancing end the day, it traditionally begins with prayer, like many other public occasions in the United States.

At 8 a.m. Thursday, the tradition will be observed on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, one of

the capital's best-known landmarks. There, the Rev. Martin Luther King, father of the Nobel Peace Prize-winner assassinated in 1968, will lead a prayer service for the man who several hours later takes over as the most powerful leader in the world.

Also leading the prayers at the Lincoln Memorial will be the Rev. Bruce Edwards, pastor of Mr. Carter's hometown Baptist church in Plains, Georgia, and Mrs. Ruth Carter Stapleton, Mr. Carter's Evangelist sister.

Ford's last budget: More money for defence, less for welfare

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17 (AFP) -- President Gerald Ford today presented a budget for fiscal 1978 proposing higher defence spending and reduced outlays for some social programs.

Mr. Ford's budget would be 4.8 per cent in fiscal 1978, compared with the 5.3 per cent rate now prevailing.

In a message accompanying the document, President Ford justified the proposed increases in defence spending, saying his recommendations "recognise the simple fact that we must plan now for the defence systems we will need 10 years from now."

It would be the first time in several years that defence spending did not decline relative to gross national product (GNP) -- the total value of goods and services produced by the Nation.

The document set military outlays at 5.5 per cent of GNP, the same as in fiscal 1977. Six years earlier, defence spending accounted for 7.5 per cent of GNP.

Mr. Ford, who leaves office in three days, called for sharply higher spending in only one other area -- research and development.

"I am convinced that we must maintain our world leadership in science and technology in order to increase our national productivity and attain the better life we want for our people and the rest of the world," he said.

The document, largely a reflection of the outgoing administration's priorities, is expected to undergo substantial revision after President-elect Jimmy Carter's inauguration on Thursday.

The president-elect and Democratic Congressional leaders have already proposed a \$30,000-million programme of tax cuts and job and public-works programmes stretching over the next two years.

Their programme would include an increase in social security benefits and a tax rebate of between \$7,000 million and \$11,000 million.

Mr. Ford's budget document proposed lower funding for several welfare programmes, including school lunches, hospital subsidies for care of the elderly and scholarships.

Also targeted for substantially reduced expenditures was the social security programme.

The budget projects lower unemployment benefits in view of the forecast economic upturn, which it estimates will force joblessness down to 7.3 per cent of the active population in fiscal 1978 from 7.6 per cent in the current fiscal year.

On the revenue side, it projected a sharp increase in tax receipts in spite of the president's recent proposal to cut taxes by \$12,000 million in fiscal 1978.

It showed expected revenues of \$393,000 million in 1978, compared with \$354,000 million in the current fiscal year.

The increase is based on continuation of the present economic recovery.

In this regard, the budget predicted real GNP growth of 5.2 per cent in 1977, down from 6.2 per cent in 1976.

Foreign aid, under the Ford proposals would increase to \$5,221 million from \$5,059 million in the current fiscal year -- a gain of 3.5 per cent.

The document did not spell out how much aid would go to various nations, but listed the following priorities:

-- To respond to military and economic aid needs in the Middle East and Southern Africa in order to help bring about peaceful solutions to problems in the areas.

-- To continue to replace gifts of military hardware with sales on credit.

-- To increase the fund of the International Development Association (IDA), especially to help the poorest countries.

-- To launch a special programme in the drought-stricken Southern Sahara in cooperation with other nations.

-- The budget earmarked \$2,400 million for replenishment of the reserves of IDA, which grants long-term, easy-term loans to developing countries.

It said the funds should go to IDA in the fiscal years 1978 to 1980. IDA, a unit of the World Bank, is expected to run out of funds in June, and talks between several rich countries have been under way for some time to agree on refinancing the agency.

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Ancient clay tablets may revolutionise knowledge of Syrian archaeology

AMMAN, Jan. 17 (AFP) -- A literary, economic and military study of ancient clay tablets unearthed by Italian archaeologists in Syria in the past few years shows they could revolutionise our knowledge of the region, The Times reported in a dispatch from

the 16,500 tablets, from a millennium before Christ, archives of the city state which flourished about 1,500 years ago.

But which virtually nothing was known previously.

New research shows that Ebla was a powerful city state.

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Ever thought of singing your way through an English class?

When the English Teaching Theatre's revue company gives a show -- which it does often, both in Britain and in tours of other countries -- the rapport between entertainers and entertained is of a rather special character. This is because many in the audience are for the first time laughing at the jokes, appreciating the puns and joining in the songs with the cast. This entertaining way of learning a language could catch on -- whether in Britain, or Jordan?

LONDON (LPS) -- Good entertainment is the first objective of the English Teaching Theatre, but moving up closely behind it is the teaching motive. The two are so skilfully integrated that probably only a specialist would realise just how many points are being put across in an atmosphere that is pure theatre and owes little or nothing to even the most relaxed classroom.

Genuine Appreciation

When the cast of five had sung their signing off number one warm night last summer at the group's tiny theatre in the centre of London, and the youthful audience were rising from their seats to applaud, the warmth that flowed between entertainers and entertained was exceptional. There was neither polite pretence in

that acclaim nor pop-star-style adulation for the non-star cast -- just genuine, wholehearted appreciation for a funny, endearing and very sunny show.

There was, perhaps, an additional reason for the enthusiasm. For many the show must have represented a breakthrough -- the first time they had sat through any form of entertainment in English without feeling a little cheated, despairing that this oh so elusive language was still out of their reach after so much hard slog; that the utterances of Albert Finney or Robert Redford, the words behind the Cliff Richard or Mick Jagger sound were still incomprehensible.

On this night they had been to an English show and they had understood most if not all of the language, had got the jokes, had been recognised and delighted in the

simple puns and joined in the songs with the cast.

Regular Tours Abroad

The English Teaching Theatre is a group of actors, teachers and musicians who now tour regularly in mainland Europe with their delightful split personality revue every spring and autumn and operate in and out of their home base at International House in London for a two-month season every summer.

Following their first tour of Sweden in the autumn of 1976 and return visits to Denmark, the Netherlands and Belgium, playing in state schools, evening schools and colleges, their plans for spring 1977 include tours of Spain, Yugoslavia, Greece and Germany, and possibly Italy and Portugal.

Their deceptively simple programme of songs and sketches is the product of many years of experimenting. There was a great deal of trying out, throwing out, rethinking and rewriting of material before they arrived at a format that was successful in theatrical and language teaching terms.

John Haycraft, the founder of International House, the well-known language and teacher training centre, had always been interested in developing new and

more interesting methods of teaching English as a Foreign Language (EFL) and in 1969 an actor from the National Youth Theatre was invited to work with the students at the school, first using existing texts and then specially prepared material. This led to a Christmas show, with teachers and students putting on a revue with audience participation.

Enter The Professionals

Although the show was great fun for all, it had to be admitted that it was not productive; students could not be expected to get up on stage and be comprehensible in English to other students.

The next step was to bring in four professional actors in place of students and teachers, apart from one member of the staff who, in cap and gown, stuck to his own role, drilling the student audience in a structural point of the language after it had been presented by the actors in the sketch.

This hybrid may not have been totally barren, but it was still far from successful. The actors were unaware of the students' linguistic limitations and their ad libbing did not go down well, and while yelling out responses or getting up on stage to take part in language games is fun, getting



A scene from "Driving Test", a sketch in a revue performed by the English Teaching Theatre as an aid to the teaching of the language. The company is based in London and regularly tours mainland Europe.

down to drills at the end of each sketch probably smacked too much of the classroom for most students when they had been expecting pure entertainment.

Aware Of The Pitfalls

So the teacher figure was cut out and then the actors were replaced by four EFL teachers with theatrical talent and a pianist to link the sketches. This worked much more successfully, for the teachers were aware of the linguistic pitfalls and knew how to grade the language in ad libbing, and for the first time real enthusiasm was engendered.

It was early in 1973, just before the first foreign tour, that the present format was adopted: a cast of five, two girls and three men, two of the men playing guitars. The group usually has a pool of about 10 to draw on for the end of these a typical composition is seven practising or experienced EFL teachers and the remaining members professional actors and musicians. This seems to be an ideal mixture as the teachers keep a watch on the language and the others contribute their particular skills.

ten by three members of the company, Doug Case, Ken Wilson and Hazel Imbert, but as their programme acknowledges they are rewritten by everyone else! Doug Case emphasises that while they aim to write their sketches around a structural point -- for example a marriage scene with an increasingly confused vicar is used to demonstrate questions beginning with "Will you...?" -- each sketch should be enjoyed in its own right.

Careful Choice OF Language

The language is, of course, chosen carefully and there is a great deal of very skilful recycling of the ideas within the conversation plus repetition and echo techniques. The talented cast, who have to be versatile, use mime and props to back up the language. So while a particular structure is being hammered home the same basic plot information is repeated in a manner that does not bore the quicker members of the audience yet gives the slower ones ample opportunity to catch up on something they might have missed.

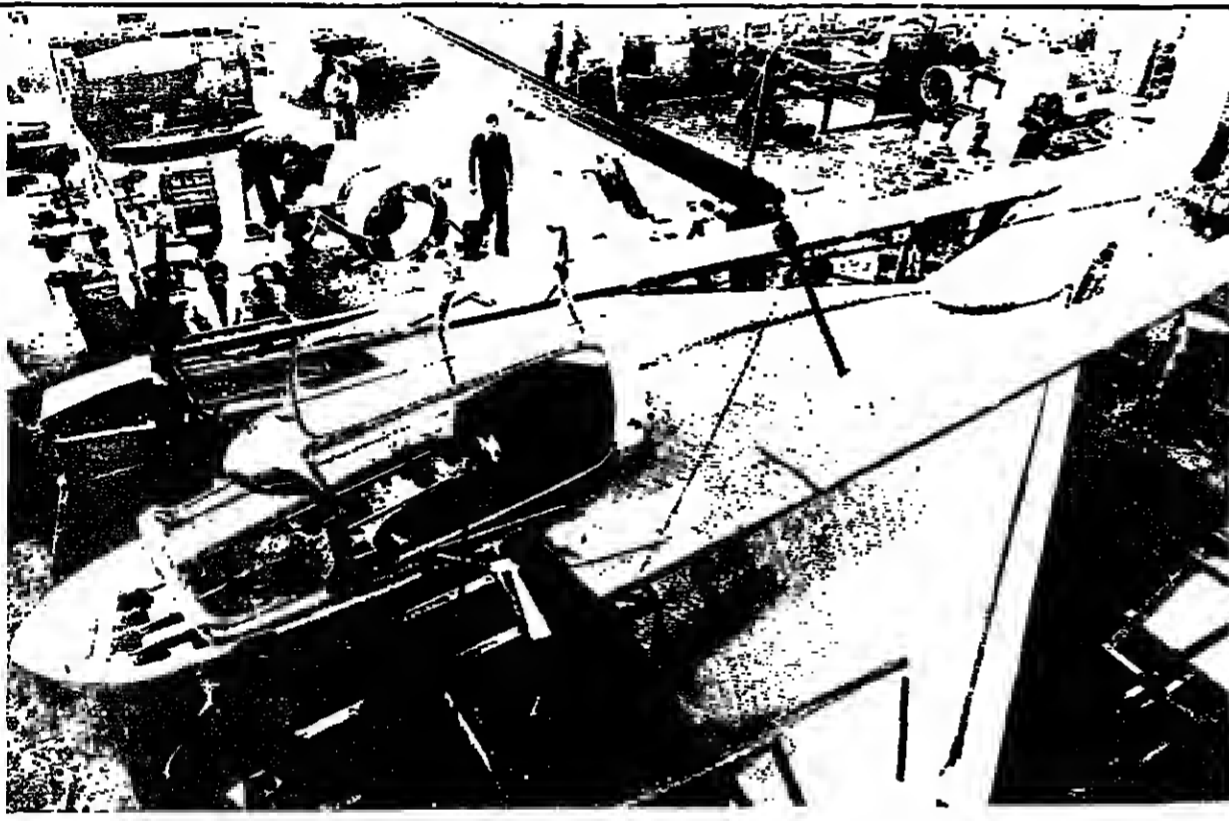
Undoubtedly a revue is the ideal form of entertainment for language learners because the language is presented in what Doug Case calls "small, easily manageable

chunks" and both the point and the tempo can be changed frequently. Item order is carefully thought out a gentle romantic song folk a hit of boisterous slapstick a sketch employing a lot of mime comes as an undemanding but after one that was difficult to understand.

A Filipp To Students

This provision of accessible entertainment in the language students are learning must result in a spill over into the classroom for both the student and the teachers who accompany them, for many of the teachers are eager to use some of the material contained in the show and group is often asked to run seminars for English teachers road.

Interest in the English Teaching Theatre is spreading and looks as if the company may have to be considerably enlarged with several groups operating in unison, as there are plans to tour to some Latin American countries and to Japan some time in 1977.



DELTA LADY -- The X 114, here seen on Rheinflugzeugbau's assembly lines at Mönchengladbach, West Germany, is the brainchild of Alexander Lippisch, wartime designer of the Messerschmitt Me 163 and champion of the delta wing principle, who died last February aged 80. But the apex of the X 114's delta is at the rear, the wings are sloped and an air cushion accumulates aerodynamically to give the craft uplift as it skims the surface of the water. In all other respects this rival to the hovercraft is virtually an aircraft and capable of conventional flight.

The sketches and songs are written

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE

VOICE OF AMERICA	RADIO JORDAN	AMMAN AIRPORT	BEC RADIO		
GMT 03:00 The Breakfast Show : to 03:00, 04:00, 05:00 and 06:00 GMT : News, 06:30 Regional and Topical Reports, VOA Current News Summary. 03:30, 04:30 and 05:30 GMT : An informal presentation of popular music with feature reports and interviews, answers to listeners' questions, Science Digest. 17:00 News Roundup, Reports, Actualities, Opinion, Analyses, News Summary 17:30 Dateline 18:00 Special English, News, Feature : Science in the News, News Summary. 18:30 Now Music USA 19:00 News Roundup, Reports, Actualities, Opinion, Analyses. 19:30 VOA Magazine, Americana, Science, Cultural, Letters. 20:00 Special English, News. 20:15 Music USA (Jazz). 21:00 VOA World Report : News to newsmakers' voices ... 21:30 correspondents' reports... background features... media comments... news analyses.	(On 856 KHZ) 7:00 Morning melodies 7:30 News 7:40 News report 8:00 Sign off 12:00 Pop session 13:00 News summary 13:05 Pop session 14:00 News 14:10 Radio magazine 14:30 Arabs in history 15:00 Concert hour 16:00 Old favourites EMERGENCIES Doctors : Amman : Salman Dabubi (21334) Fawzi Nino (38198) Irbid : Mit'eb Khalaf Ameen Abu Abdoh (2278) Zarqa : Shaker Mahmoud Mubaldin (83309) Pharmacies : Amman : Yacoub (44554)	Departures : 8:30 Baghdad (IA) 8:45 Beirut (MEA) 10:15 Kuwait (KAC) 10:30 Cairo 11:00 Geneva, Brussels, Amsterdam 11:25 London (BA) 12:00 Aqaba (SAA) 14:00 Athens (GA) 14:45 Damascus (SAA) 19:00 Bahrain, Bangkok 19:30 Abu Dhabi, Karachi 21:00 Jeddah 21:55 Doha, Muscat 01:15 Dubai (Alitalia)	Arrivals : 7:30 Baghdad (IA) 8:30 Bangkok, Bahrain 8:40 Dubai, Abu Dhabi 9:30 Kuwait (KAC) 10:40 Karachi, Kuwait (BA) 11:15 Aleppo, Damascus (SAA) 12:10 Muscat, Abu Dhabi, Doha (GA) 14:10 Aqaba (SAA) 17:00 Cairo 17:10 London 17:15 Paris, Rome 17:30 Copenhagen, Frankfurt 18:10 Madrid, Athens 18:15 Amsterdam, Athens (KLM) 19:40 Beirut (MEA) 00:10 Rome (Alitalia)	GMT 05:00 News; 24 hours 05:30 Sarah Ward 05:45 The World Today 06:00 News; Press Review 06:30 Folk and Country 07:00 News; 24 hours 07:30 Sarah Ward 07:45 A History of Food 08:00 News 08:15 Short Story 08:30 Composer and Interpreter 09:00 News; U.K. Press Review 09:15 The World Today 09:30 Financial News 09:45 Look Ahead 10:15 Ulster '77 10:30 Comedy Playhouse 11:00 News; News about Britain 11:15 Origins of Industry 11:30 Sports International 12:00 Radio Newsreel 12:15 The Pleasure's Yours 12:45 Sports Round-up 13:00 News; 24 hours 13:30 Maurice Ravel 14:15 Report on Religion 14:30 Talkabout 15:00 Radio Newsreel	15:15 Outlook 16:00 News; Commentary 16:15 Appointment with Fear 16:45 The World Today 17:00 News 17:09 Books and Writers 17:30 Take One 17:45 Sports Round-up 18:00 News; News about Britain 18:15 Radio Newsreel 18:30 Talkabout 19:00 Outlook; News Summary 19:42 Stock Market Report 19:45 One Piano, Four Hands 20:00 News; 24 hours 20:30 The Pleasure's Yours 21:00 Business and Industry 21:15 Ulster '77 21:30 Farming World 22:00 News; The World Today 22:25 Financial News 22:35 Aria 22:45 Sports Round-up 23:00 News; Commentary 23:15 Nature Notebook 23:30 Appointment with Fear
		USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS Ambulance (government) ... Tel. 75111 Civil defence rescue ... " 24391-4 Fire headquarters ... " 22050 First aid, fire, police ... " 19 Jordan Electric Power Co. (emergency) ... " 36381-2 Municipal water service (emergency) ... " 37111-3 Police headquarters ... " 39141 Najdeh, roving patrol rescue police, (English spoken) 24 hours a day for emergency help " 21111, 37777	JORDAN TELEVISION Channel 3 & 6 : 6:00 Quran 6:05 Cartoons 6:30 Walt Disney 8:00 News in Arabic Channel 6 : 7:30 News in Hebrew 7:45 Varieties 8:30 The last of the basket 9:10 Rich man, poor man 10:00 News in English 10:15 Hawaii 5-0		
		Cultural Centres American Centre (USIS) ... Tel. 41520 British Council ... " 36147-8 French Cultural Centre ... " 37009 Goethe Institute ... " 41993 Soviet Cultural Centre ... " 44203 Amman Municipal Library ... " 36111	Channel 3 : 7:30 Health programme 8:30 Arabic series		

هنا صحتنا

Gary Gilmore shot

DRAPER, Utah, July 17, (R). — Murderer Gary Gilmore was shot by a firing squad here today after a final delay of his sentence had been overturned by Federal Appeal judges.

"The order of the State of Utah has been carried out," an official announcement said. "Gary Gilmore is dead."

The execution was the first for 10 years in the United States and followed a night of bizarre developments, including desperate efforts by state officials to overturn the execution postponement ordered by Federal Judge Willis Ritter.

Judge Ritter's midnight order infuriated Mr. Gilmore who had repeatedly said he wanted to die to atone for two killings.

The execution took place at 8.07 a.m. (1507 GMT) 18 minutes after the moment at sunset originally set for Mr. Gilmore's death.

Judge Ritter ordered that the execution should be delayed for 10 days -- the third postponement of Mr. Gilmore's date with the firing squad.

Then a Federal Appeals Court, sitting at a dawn emergency session in the neighbouring state of Colorado, said the execution could go ahead.

Mr. Gilmore, 36, exhausted by hours of official indecision and emotional leave-taking from his family, ate a big breakfast of eggs and hamburger and went to sleep for a time.

After Judge Ritter's original reprieve was announced, Mr. Gilmore screamed obscenities at a television set he was watching and thrashed around with his fists.

The official announcement of his execution was made by prison spokesman Ken Shulsen who received the news over a telephone link marked "hot line."

The decision to allow the execution came a few minutes before Mr. Gilmore had been due to face the five-man firing squad.

He was refused a request to stand before his executioners. Instead he died strapped in a chair. Mr. Gilmore's death opened the doors to further executions in the U.S.

The exact place of death in the Utah State Prison here was not disclosed.

Mr. Gilmore's uncle, Laverne Damico, tearfully told reporters: "Gary died like he wanted to die -- with dignity. He got his wish."



LIFE STORY -- Mr. Laurence Sobiller, who bought the rights to the Gary Gilmore life story, arrives at Utah State Prison on a visit Sunday evening. Mr. Sobiller was one of five people authorised by Mr. Gilmore to witness his execution Monday. (AP wirephoto).

Britain studies next moves after Richard's Southern African tour

LONDON, Jan. 17 (AFP). — The British chairman of the adjourned Rhodesia conference, Ivor Richard, is currently studying, with foreign office officials here, his next moves on talks he has had in Southern Africa for the past three weeks, a Foreign Office spokesman said today.

According to Foreign Office sources, the announcement was made to end speculations, in the British press, that Mr. Richard's mission suffered a major setback when his scheduled talks with Zimbabwe Patriotic Front leaders, Joshua Nkomo and Robert Mugabe last Sunday in Maputo, Mozambique, were called off.

The spokesman repeated statements made by Mr. Richard in Nairobi where he is now, indicating that he had decided to adjourn the talks to be in a position to formulate "firmer proposals" concerning a tentative interim government in Rhodesia that would be headed by a British resident commissioner.

The Foreign Office also categorically denied a Johannesburg newspaper report stating that South Africa had warned Britain that it might send troops in Rhodesia if the guerrilla war intensified there.

Gromyko calls on all signatories of Helsinki accord to discuss Warsaw Pact's nuclear proposals

MOSCOW, Jan. 17 (AFP). — Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko today called for a preliminary meeting of signatories of the Helsinki agreement to discuss new proposals for a nuclear treaty made by Warsaw Pact countries two months ago.

There could be an exchange of opinion to avoid any misunderstandings about certain aspects of the initiative taken by the Socialist states, Mr. Gromyko said.

The new proposals were formulated during a summit meeting two months ago of the pact countries' Consultative Political Committee.

Mr. Gromyko extended his invitation to preliminary disarmament talks to "all the countries which took part in the Helsinki agreement, large or small, whether they form part of a group or not."

Observers noted that Mr. Gromyko made no reference to a preliminary meeting already scheduled to be held in Belgrade this summer and a planned meeting of foreign ministers to examine the results so far of the Helsinki agreement.

Sheikh Abdul Aziz, the Oil Minister of Qatar, delivered a message from the Emir of Qatar. Today's talks focussed on oil matters in the light of last month's OPEC conference in Qatar.

Sheikh Abdul Aziz was scheduled to return home later today before resuming a tour of Gulf oil states, Qatari officials said.

He said at his arrival yesterday he planned to visit Iraq and Iran after Kuwait and probably Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

The Qatar News Agency yesterday quoted Sheikh Abdul Aziz as calling on OPEC states to realign their price policies to preserve the unity of the organisation.

The agency said that in an interview with a Saudi newspaper, the OPEC chairman described a unified price as a pressing necessity.

Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi might call for parliamentary elections at the end of March or early April this year, the English-language newspaper, Sunday Standard, reported yesterday.

In a front-page lead article by columnist Kuldip Nayar, the paper said that with the recent release of several political detainees by Mrs. Gandhi's government there was an impression that elections were round the corner.

(Official sources refused to comment on the report. The official election commission repeated its usual stand: "We are ready.")

ECONOSCOPE

By Jawad Ahmad

Big cities sing the blues

New Yorkers defend their city with all the enthusiasm it can afford. The place is full of culture, and at every corner there is a place where one can spend a fruitful time. Out-of-towners think of the city as a place of muggers and inaffection.

Both are correct. The city is a combination of the two. One has to take New York as a package deal with all the pros and cons. You can walk down Fifth Avenue enjoying a human hive at work, but then expect to be mugged.

When New York had its budget problems, this difference of opinion popped out to the surface. "Why help a city of muggers?" one would say. Another would shout: "My goodness New York is the heart of America. Why should we give it up or let it sink?"

New York City is not a unique case. Large cities of the world seem plunging into trouble further and further. Their sizes and populations are growing at rates which defy imagination. Not only that, but the rate of crime and disorder is matching with higher rates.

Look at the cities of San Francisco, Chicago, Los Angeles, Karachi, New Delhi, Calcutta, Cairo, Sao Paulo, Tokyo, etc... Their populations exceed seven million, and they promise to go bigger. What is the end?

Should these trends continue to go unchecked, then cities will become hell for their inhabitants who cannot leave them for reasons of livelihood.

Economists should focus more attention on this global phenomenon. While cities grow, the cost of running them is growing at

increasing rates. To build an electric network, or a sewerage system for a population of eight million will cost more than double the cost of a system designed for four million only.

Moreover, there are external diseconomies of scale which would result from the large size cities. Such diseconomies take many forms: Pollution, degeneration of morality, crowdedness, crime, etc... Who is going to pay for all that?

Many city-dwellers in developed countries are seeking refuge in suburbia. However, the city is gradually approaching these outskirts and causing people to move further and further away. Eventually, peripheral residential suburbs become parts of the expanding city.

Cities are naturally important for running an economy. They service large areas around them. Yet, cities alone seem to bear all the cost because of the difficult assessment of benefits which accrue to non-city dwellers.

If the current erosion of life-quality in cities continues, human life at large would be jeopardised. The plight of cities is not mainly their own doing. Those who draw on their services should take a certain portion of the cost of restructuring cities so that they may continue.

New York is a harsh and difficult city for a stranger. Its problems will soon be shared by many other large cities, if they have not already started doing so. A better system of cost/benefit sharing must be devised before major civilisations decay and rot.

Israel may use "preventive" attack against Syria

TEL AVIV, Jan. 17 (AFP). — Israeli Chief-of-Staff Mordechai Gur warned last night that Israel would launch a preventive attack if it were threatened by an "offensive from Syria".

An Israeli attack under those circumstances would have "favourable military and political results" and "would be understood by the whole world" the Israeli army leader told a group of Israeli military correspondents last night.

Gen. Gur warned his countrymen that their country's military situation would worsen if Syria built up her forces in Lebanon. Particularly if a large troop build-up occurred on the Golan Heights.

Syria had, at present, six brigades in Lebanon, without counting other Arab forces, Gen. Gur said. The Arabs could in fact, launch an attack against Israel with the present forces at their disposal but Israel was prepared to face the threat of a mass surprise attack, he said.

Asher Yadlin's trial opens

TEL AVIV, Jan. 17, (R). — A former governor-designate of the Bank of Israel went on trial today on charges of bribery, tax evasion and fraudulent land transactions.

Mr. Asher Yadlin, 53, who pleaded not guilty, has been detained since last October.

He did not appear today at the short opening session of the trial on advice from doctors.

Mr. Yadlin went into hospital earlier this month under police guard following complaints of chest pains, soon after he heard about the death of his friend, Housing Minister Avraham Ofer.

Mr. Ofer shot himself on Jan. 3 after being accused of embezzling public funds, an accusation he denied.

Mr. Yadlin's nomination for the top economic post was withdrawn by the cabinet last year after charges were brought against his conduct while he was head of the powerful Trade Union Sickness Benefits Fund.

Mr. Yadlin's attorney presented the judge today with a written request by his client to start the trial in his absence and a denial of all the points in the charge sheet.

The trial was postponed for three weeks.

Benin newspaper display photos of mercenaries "killed in attempted coup"

COTONOU, Benin, Jan. 17 (AFP). — A state-owned Benin newspaper today front-paged photographs of bodies of white mercenaries who it said were killed in yesterday's attempted coup d'etat against head of state Mathieu Kerekou.

The photographs, showing white as well as black mercenaries "killed by Benin soldiers" were accompanied by photos of munitions, incendiary bombs, other arms seized yesterday and, according to a caption in the newspaper, wads of banknotes found on an "African mercenary captured alive".

The official reports here today said that barricades erected yesterday in Cotonou were still in place and militia attempted to flush out the mercenaries holed up in areas around the military airport.

The official reports said the number of Cotonou's residential quarters were "combed" by regular units during the night.

The official Voice of the Revolution Radio, which continues broadcasting throughout the night, today relayed messages of support for President Kerekou from 24 hours after the state-owned radio reported that a plane-load of mercenaries had landed at the former Spanish Sahara.

Guillotine's future may depend on outcome of this murder trial

TROYES, France, Jan. 17, (R). — A young salesman stands trial tomorrow for the kidnap and murder of an eight-year-old boy, a case that could influence the future of France's death penalty.

A public outcry followed the arrest last February of 23-year-old Mr. Patrick Henry, charged after police found the strangled body of Philippe Bertrand under his hotel bed.

The popular press called Mr. Henry "the Monster" and 6,000 people here signed a petition in favour of execution on the guillotine. Three government ministers, later rebuked by President Valery Giscard d'Estaing, demanded the death penalty.

One of the head of state's heaviest official burdens, dating to the days of the monarchy, in his life-and-death power over the condemned.

Since taking office in 1974, Mr. Giscard d'Estaing has commuted four death sentences to life imprisonment. But in a fifth case, that of a child murderer last July, 15 days.

Local passions in the present case ran so high that Mr. Henry's lawyers, loath to defend him such an emotional atmosphere sought the transfer of the trial. They failed.

The boy, Philippe Bertrand, kidnapped last January and his rents received a one million franc (£ 120,000) ransom demand. There was silence.

Mr. Patrick Henry, a friend, was briefly detained by police but released for lack of evidence. Police then trailed him six days and arrested him on a rooftop chase at a Troyes hotel. They found Philippe's body in a sleeping bag. Pathologists said he had been dead that of a child murderer last July, 15 days.

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WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

● UNITED NATIONS, Jan. 17 (R). — Former West German Chancellor Willy Brandt may be able to announce within 10 days the composition of an international brains trust to resolve the impasse between rich and poor countries, informed sources said. World Bank President Robert McNamara launched the project on Friday in a speech to the World Affairs Council at Boston, and Herr Brandt has let it be known that he is ready to head the commission.

● TEL AVIV, Jan. 17 (R). — U.S. President-elect Jimmy Carter is expected to invite Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to Washington in March, Israeli newspapers said yesterday. The Washington correspondents of most morning newspapers said Mr. Carter would probably also invite Egyptian President Anwar Sadat.

● TEL AVIV, Jan. 17 (R). — The government announced last night a two per cent devaluation of the Israeli pound. Its new rate against a basket of five currencies, the U.S. dollar, sterling, the West German mark, French franc and Dutch guilder, will be 9.07 instead of the present 8.90 pounds.

● ANKARA, Jan. 17 (AFP). — Turkish secret service agents recently foiled an attack on the Syrian embassy here by two Iraqi students, the daily Tercuman reported today. The Syrian embassy confirmed the report, which said the students were arrested last month and expelled to Iraq. An Iraqi embassy official said he knew nothing about the reported incident.

● BANGKOK, Jan. 17 (R). — Egyptian and Thai authorities probing the Egypt Air crash that killed 72 people last month have flown to Washington to present their findings to the National Transport Safety Bureau, a Communications Ministry spokesman said today. He told reporters that the findings would include the Boeing 707's flight data and cockpit voice recorder.

● BAHRAIN, Jan. 17 (R). — Bahrain government spending is to increase by almost a third this year to 249 million dinars (about £383 million) under a decree issued here today by the Emir, Sheikh Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifeh. The budget decree also expected revenue to rise by a similar proportion to 235 million dinars (about £360 million). The resulting 14 million dinar deficit would be met from state reserves, the decree said.

LONDON MARKET REPORT

The stock exchange moved sharply higher Monday at the start of the new trading account, with buyers encouraged by the sharp improvement in Britain's December trade figures and the continuing steadiness of sterling.

Gilt came in for an active bout of trading, after an uncertain start following the 1,250 million pound new government tap-stock -- the biggest ever -- which becomes available on Thursday. Gains ranged to one pound in the "shorts" and 75 pence for the "longs".

Industrials moved ahead, with a late spurt after the announcement of the December surplus on overseas trade. Leaders like Imperial Chemical Industries (ICI), Glaxo, Beccoms, Tube Investments, Metal Box, Vickers, and in electricals, Thornycroft after last week's results, all moved ahead. The Financial Times industrial shares index was up 10.5 to 374.4 -- the highest since last July.

Banks had a broad measure of gains, although Australia and New Zealand eased after the rights issue. Hong Kong Shanghai remained steady.

In oils, Shell and British Petroleum went ahead after a dull start: Burmah too. Golds had small, but widespread losses on the eve of the "December" quarterlies. Tins remained very firm as the metal soared. Guthrie was a firm factor in plantations. On the Japanese, Hitachi was easier.

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